

31 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Regional Analysis Division, OSR

SUBJECT : Suitability of "H" Camera Photography to Provide Information on the Standstill Zone

Mission [] was flown on [] utilizing the "H" camera. It covered generally that part of Egypt lying 15 to 60 kilometers west of the Suez Canal. The photography is better than that obtained from recent "H" camera missions and provides coverage of better interpretability of Egyptian targets 15 kilometers beyond the Canal than that acquired by "B" camera. We have provided this preliminary evaluation of "H" camera suitability based on the distance the object is imaged west of the Canal. No precisely plotted flight track is presently available from which we can determine the distance between the object and the flight line as we did in our recent evaluation of the "B" camera (IAS/MD 232/70). The following is therefore a preliminary evaluation of what the imagery analyst can see and report on from this mission and may or may not have utility for subsequent "H" missions depending on the similarity of flight track.

SAM Sites

Sam sites can be seen and identified out to about 60 kilometers west of the Canal. Occupancy can be determined out to about 50 kilometers, but individual launchers can be counted out only to about 30 kilometers. The identification of the type of equipment (whether SA-2 or SA-3) is limited to the area falling within 17 kilometers of the Canal. Dummy equipment cannot be identified on this photography.

Ground Force Installations and Military Equipment

Occupied field artillery positions are almost always canvas covered and therefore the weapons cannot be seen. The only positions seen and identified as such at the time this memorandum was prepared were in area on the west bank of the Bitter Lake (about 7 kms. west of the ceasefire line). It is likely that such positions could be identified out to about 40 kilometers from the Canal. AAA positions can be seen and occupancy determined out to about 30 kilometers. It is not possible to determine the caliber of the weapon.

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Military vehicles (tanks, trucks, bulldozers) can be seen and identified as such out to about 20 kilometers. Whether or not vehicle revetments are occupied can be determined out to about 40 kilometers, but the type of vehicle occupying the revetment cannot be determined.

Trench networks can be seen out to about 40 kilometers with little or no difficulty, but because of the extensive network that presently exists minor alterations or additions would probably not be noticed.

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Acting Director
Imagery Analysis Service

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